

PATENT



) Art Unit: 1765

) Confirmation No.: 6736

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) Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on

October 5, 2004:

1) Gerald T. Schulz

Gerald T. Shekleton Reg. No. 27,466

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, a list of documents is disclosed on the attached Form PTO-1449 that may be material to the examination of this application. The listed Documents are enclosed herewith.

No inferences should be drawn that the attached list represents a comprehensive investigation, or that any material disclosed is equivalent to the subject invention. In addition, none of the documents that have publication dates prior to the priority date of the above application anticipate the invention in this application.

No item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

The cited document(s) disclose numerous specific features. There has been no attempt to list each and every feature disclosed by each document. The Examiner is requested to review the document(s) and determine the extent of the materiality of the document disclosures with respect to the present invention.

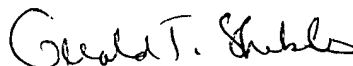
The discussion of any art and the citation of any document(s) herein is not to be construed as an admission that the art or document disclosure is necessarily within the invention field of endeavor, that the art or document disclosure is necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent application, and/or that the art or document disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art as defined by the patent law with respect to the instant invention and application.

Also, there is reserved the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the disclosures of the art and document(s) recited herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the instant patent application. The recitation herein of the art and document(s) is not to be construed as an assertion that more pertinent art could not possibly be in existence.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted after the mailing of the first Office Action reflecting an examination on the merits but before the mailing of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance. Accordingly, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), a fee of \$180 is included herewith. If this check is inadvertently not enclosed, or is in error in amount, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or to credit any over payment to Welsh & Katz, Ltd. Account No. 23-0920.

Respectfully submitted,

WELSH & KATZ, LTD.



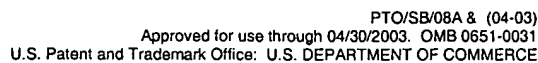
Gerald T. Shekleton

Registration No. 27,466

Dated: October 5, 2004

Welsh & Katz, Ltd.

120 South Riverside Plaza, 22nd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: 312/655-1500



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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

Complete if Known

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	1	of	1
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Application Number	09/856,209
Filing Date	May 18, 2001
First Named Inventor	Kozo Nakamura
Art Unit	1765
Examiner Name	Matthew J. Song
Attorney Docket Number	82822

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶
		"Proceedings of the Seventh International Symposium on Silicon Materials Science and Technology"; <i>Semiconductor Silicon/94, Electronics Division</i> , Vol. 94-10, 1994, 10 pgs.	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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